CIA deputy says Russ get technology

By Dave Heylen Deseret News staff writer

The willingness of Western allies to illegally provide highly technical equipment to the Soviet Union is creating a nightmare for the United States military community, says the deputy director of the CIA.

John N. McMahon said Friday that 80 percent of the Soviet Union's military technology advances were made courtesy of free world technology, particularly from Japan and West Germany.

Addressing the Reserve Officers Association of the United State's national convention at Hotel Utah, McMahon said Soviet military might is gained through illegal trading and espionage.

McMahon, the keynote speaker, outlined the history of the CIA and its future role.

His organization is only now rebuilding from the 1970s when the CIA was stripped of half its funding and 40 percent of its manpower.

"It's no wonder we are starting from scratch to rebuild our intelligence capabilities," he said, crediting the Reagan administration for the turnaround.

The government is beginning to crack down on the Soviet Union's espionage efforts in the United States as witnessed by expulsion of more than 90 Soviet individuals in the past three years.

The deputy director said the CIA was greatly expanded in the 1950s under President Eisenhower. The United States learned then of the Soviets' intentions to build a nuclear arsenal second to none, he said.

Once that was accomplished, Mc-Mahon said, the Soviet emphasis shifted to increasing the size of its army. In the 1970s the Soviets moved to control key waterways, including those in the Middle East, Vietnam, Cuba and Morocco.

"We can see what is happening in Cuba with its huge Soviet base," he said. "Now they are working on Central America." The domino theory — the belief that when Vietnam fell to communism, other Far East countries would as well — could apply to Central America if the Soviets get a foothold there, he said.

McMahon said the CIA's major concern in the 1980s will be international terrorism aimed at the United States. Almost 12,000 people worldwide have been killed or wounded in terrorist attacks, he said.

His department's biggest fear is the possibility of a terrorist group building a nuclear bomb because the technology to do so is available.

McMahon also expressed concern about the Freedom of Information Act that allows any individual, American or not, to request information about CIA affairs. Although information can be labeled classified, people can still learn the identities of CIA agents from the information.

"We don't want to deprive the American people or anyone else the freedom of information," he said, "We just don't want them to have the liberty to search an agent's file."

This weekend, the U.S. Army Reserve will honor David Cohen, 17, Omaha, Neb., for winning first place in a national essay contest co-sponsored by the Reserve and the Reserve Officers' Association.

Cohen was awarded a plaque and a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond at the annual convention. His essay was selected from 2,200 entries submitted from 138 high schools.